



MAMA
ZANDILE GUMEDE
FOUNDATION

Investment In Humanity.

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NOTES FOR PATRON at SANITARY TOWEL COLLECTION DRIVE

**Programme Director,
Kaizer Chiefs Football Club foundation,
Umlazi Mega City Shopping Centre management,
Board Members of Mama Zandile Foundation,
Ambassadors,
Artists,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Sanibonani,
Kumnandi ukuba lapha!**

As a woman who is leading this city, I am committed in the empowerment of our black people and our women. We don't just care about women but we are committed in ensuring that they too get better opportunities. This is the reason we are not apologetic about the support of our women.

We have realised that we need to support our women at a tender age. We need to support our young girls in ensuring that we have a pool of empowered girls.

This is the reason we are having this sanitary towel drive in order to collect sanitary towels for our girls who are still in schools. According to research, lack of access to sanitary towels often results in young women from poorer backgrounds being absent from school or experiencing the loss of human dignity because of having no choice but to use old newspapers or cloths.

Young women in Africa have been reported as being absent from school for a period of at least four days per month; this number can total up to approximately 24 weeks out of 144 weeks in a four year period of high school. In some instances, these young women suffer from stress and depression as a result of fear of staining their clothes.

I am committed in addressing this matter working with all stakeholders. Today we are with Kaizer Chiefs Football Club and uMlazi Mega City Shopping Centre, having noted an increasing need for health awareness, particularly in young girls, together have partnered to reach out to the community and lend a helping hand through: **A SANITARY TOWEL COLLECTION DRIVE.**

This project was motivated by the socio-economic imbalances that exist in impoverished communities, where young girls, due to financial circumstances beyond their control, are unable to afford the necessary essentials they need. The main objective of the collaboration is to collect as much a number of Sanitary Pads and have them distributed accordingly to the needy.

We are accepting and inviting individuals, corporates and institutions to join us and support through donating either cash or sanitary towels where we will have collection boxes available at the shopping centre at collection points.

We are also pleased with our partnership with Kaizer Chiefs and we hope to get more partners who will support our Ubuntu courses. We are about investing in Ubuntu.